

MARINES OPERATIONS



▼ **FALLUJAH, Iraq** – Pfc. Joseph Temple moves with a tank from A Company, 1st Tank Battalion, during a patrol rehearsal here May 4. Marines repositioned forces outside the city to allow Iraqi forces to take over security operations. The Fallujah Brigade's 1st Battalion, the new Iraqi force, was composed of former elements of the Iraqi army. The Fallujah Brigade was disbanded in September. Temple, from Henderson, Nev., is with 3rd Platoon, K Co., 3rd Bn., 4th Marines.

Photo by Lance Cpl. Kevin C. Quihuis Jr.

Year in Review
ON THIS DATE:

01:05
2004

OKINAWA, Japan – The “Dragons” of Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 265 (Reinforced), attached to the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, celebrate 60,000 flight hours without a Class-A mishap. A Class-A mishap is any incident that results in death or monetary damage equal to or more than \$1 million.



▲ **AL TAQADDUM, Iraq** – Plane captains Sgts. David R. Schradermeier and Jamie D. Shepler and Cpl. John J. Gato escort the RQ-2B Pioneer unmanned aerial vehicle down the flight line in preparation for takeoff here June 10. They will perform a series of tests before launching the aircraft to ensure the flight is problem free. The crew is with Marine Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron 2, Marine Air Command Group 38, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing. The Marines of VMU-2 flew the UAV more than 1,000 hours in the three months prior to June in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Photo by Lance Cpl. Matthew T. Rainey



▼ **DEY CHOPAN REGION, Afghanistan** – Army CH-47 Chinook helicopters insert Marines from Reconnaissance Platoon, Battalion Landing Team 1st Battalion, 6th Marines, into the region during Operation Asbury Park June 4. Various elements of the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit participated in the mission. A sizable force of Afghan Militia Force fighters accompanied the Marine task force, and midway through the operation a second force was inserted to set up blocking positions to deny the enemy's paths of escape. During these battles, close air support played a key role. Marine attack helicopters and Harrier jets, Army AH-64 Apache attack helicopters and Air Force A-10 Thunderbolt II attack aircraft and B-1B Lancer strategic bombers joined the fray.

Photo by Capt. Jon P. Connolly



▲ **FORWARD OPERATING BASE KALSU, Iraq** – Kwinto, a 7-year-old Belgian Malinois military police dog, sits behind his protective gear, which includes a flak jacket, safety goggles and booties made for canines, Nov. 5. The dog and his handler, Sgt. Ken Porras, are with the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit. Porras, 32, is a North Bergen, N.J., native with the Military Police Detachment of MEU Service Support Group 24. The two search for explosives at vehicle checkpoints, on security patrols and during weapons cache sweeps.

Photo by Lance Cpl. Sarah A. Beavers



◀ **PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti** – Sgt. Maj. of the Marine Corps John L. Estrada talks with the Marines and sailors of Combined Joint Task Force-Haiti and Marine Air-Ground Task Force 8 here May 11. Estrada addressed many of the service members' concerns, including redeployment and operations in Iraq. Both task forces are here to support Operation Secure Tomorrow. The operation began Feb. 29 when multinational forces arrived in Haiti to quell civil unrest throughout the capital, Port-au-Prince. Other objectives of Operation Secure Tomorrow included supporting a peaceful and constitutional political process and preparing for the arrival of a follow-on U.N. stabilization force.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Timothy S. Edwards

Year in Review
ON THIS DATE:

01:17
2004

IWO JIMA, Japan – Nearly 59 years after the battle that played a pivotal role in the Corps' history, Marines from 7th Platoon, 2nd Fleet Anti-Terrorism Security Team Company visit the island to commemorate its anniversary. The trip, which included a climb up Mount Suribachi, was one of the platoon's last operational events. The unit left Japan Jan. 22 for its homeport of Yorktown Naval Weapons Station in Yorktown, Va.



▲ **AL ASAD, Iraq** – A CH-53E Super Stallion lifts an F-7 Airguard, the Chinese version of a Russian MiG-21, from the ground here May 14. The heavy-hauler, from Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 465, used its dual-point lift system to move the jet to a less-populated location aboard the air base. More information on the F-7 Airguard, which weighs more than 11,000 pounds, can be found at www.combataircraft.com. The lift demonstrated the air and ground crews' skills of tactical recoveries of aircraft and personnel, missions they often perform on the battlefield.

Photo by Sgt. Nathan K. LaForte

▲ **CAMP FALLUJAH, Iraq** – Twelve Marines and one sailor wounded in action received the Purple Heart here April 24 from Brig. Gen. Richard S. Kramlich, commanding general of 1st Force Service Support Group. Most received their wounds during the opening days of Operation Vigilant Resolve, launched April 4 to bring order to Fallujah. All of the recipients are assigned to Combat Service Support Battalion 1, which provides logistical support to Marines operating in and around Fallujah. Despite the wounds, all have returned to duty. Before he awarded the medal, Kramlich spoke of the significance of wearing the Purple Heart saying that Americans “will be reassured that there are people – men and women like you all out there – that are ready to do whatever it takes.”

Photo by Staff Sgt. Bill Lisbon



▲ **SOUTHCENTRAL IRAQ** – 1st Lt. Vanessa Engel of the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit plays pat-a-cake with an Iraqi schoolgirl during a visit to an elementary school here Oct. 16. The visit was part of the MEU's ongoing back-to-school campaign, which provides local Iraqi school children with water, stickers, balloons, sports equipment and backpacks full of educational supplies. Engel, 27, is a Mount Prospect, Ill., native and adjutant with the headquarters detachment of MEU Service Support Group 24.

Photo by Lance Cpl. Sarah A. Beavers



▼ **FALLUJAH, Iraq** – An Iraqi Security Force soldier provides security around the corner of a house for Marines and other Iraqi soldiers here Nov. 10. Iraqi security forces and Marines recently took the first steps in creating a peaceful and more stable Fallujah by aggressively targeting anti-Iraqi forces during Operation Al Fajr. The ISF and Marine forces fought from house to house in the nearly abandoned city, clearing buildings of insurgents and terrorist weapons caches as they went.

Photo by Lance Cpl. T. J. Kaemmerer



◀ **PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti** – Cpl. Sherod C. Marks, from Queens, N.Y., provides security during a cordon and knock operation with members of the Haitian National Police here March 28. The operation was conducted to investigate a live-fire incident in the area a few nights prior. With about 50 Marines and sailors and four members of the HNP involved, the operation went smoothly. “We obtained some useful information and confiscated two shotguns and some ammunition,” said Capt. Bill A. Sablan, Weapons Company commander.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Timothy S. Edwards

Year in Review
ON THIS DATE:

02:08
2004

▲ **KUWAIT CITY, Kuwait** – Brigade Service Support Group 1 began offloading gear from Maritime Prepositioning Force ships. The major commands involved in Operation Iraqi Freedom – I Marine Expeditionary Force, 1st Marine Division, 1st Force Service Support Group and the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing – determined the equipment they would need based on the missions they were expected to perform.

> **TARIN KOWT, Afghanistan** – Petty Officer 1st Class Stephen Cavin examines an Afghan village elder during a medical civil affairs project here May 6. Cavin is a corpsman with Battalion Landing Team 1st Battalion, 6th Marines, the BLT of the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit. A comprehensive civil affairs campaign undertaken by the MEU, in concert with the unit's combat operations, sought to engender good will between coalition forces and the Afghan people and to make tangible, long-lasting differences in their lives.

Photo by Sgt. Matt Preston



< **CENTRAL AFGHANISTAN** – 1st Lt. Thomas Crossen, of Coldwater, Mich., tells Sgt. Ryan West, of Lafayette, Ind., where to employ his squad during a firefight with anti-coalition militia here June 2 during Operation Asbury Park. Instead of laying improvised explosive devices or taking potshots at passing convoys, the Taliban and anticoalition militia factions decided to stand their ground and fight. In doing so, they suffered one of their soundest defeats in months. More than 85 enemy fighters were confirmed killed and as many as 40 others estimated killed. A handful of Marines were wounded by enemy fire, all have since returned to duty. Both Marines are assigned to C Company, Battalion Landing Team 1st Battalion, 6th Marines, the ground combat element of the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit.

Photo by Gunnery Sgt. Keith A. Milks



> **AL QAIM, Iraq** – Three Marines provide security while others conduct a cordon and knock on known terrorists insurgents houses here Nov. 10. The Marines, from C Company, 1st Battalion, 7th Marines, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, freed Iraqis being held hostage by the insurgents and discovered several weapons caches on the property. The cordon and knock was the first time the Marines with the company used helicopters as a means of insertion.

Photo by Lance Cpl. Christopher G. Graham



> **EUPHRATES RIVER, Iraq** – A Marine in a watercraft looks for suspicious activities, objects and people along the shores of the Euphrates River here Oct. 1. Marines from Small Craft Company patrol the waterways and shorelines in boats as they travel to checkpoints along the river. The company is part of Battalion Landing Team 1st Battalion, 2nd Marines, the BLT of the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit.

Photo by Lance Cpl. Zachary R. Frank



< **FALLUJAH, Iraq** – Amphibious assault vehicles resupply B Company, Battalion Landing Team 1st Battalion, 3rd Marines, with chow, water and ammunition here Nov. 18. The tracks played a vital role in the Marines' push through the city by providing troop transport, fire support, medical evacuations and resupply missions. The Marines have been conducting these missions since the initial assault into the city Nov. 8.

Photo by Lance Cpl. Will Lathrop



Year in Review
ON THIS DATE:

02:19
2004

CLARK AIR BASE, Republic of the Philippines – Exercise Balikatan '04 begins. More than 125 Marines and sailors with Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 362 arrive at Clark Air Base to take part in the exercise. The Marine Corps and the Air Force trained with the armed forces of the Philippines in this bilateral exercise. About 2,500 U.S. troops and 2,300 Philippine forces participated.

➤ **WESTERN IRAQ** – In a moment of crisis, Marines stand watch as other members of the convoy tend to one of two Marines injured when the seven-ton truck they were driving overturned en route to Camp Korean Village in western Iraq. The truck's central tire inflation system malfunctioned, causing the thousands of gallons of water it was hauling to shift. The Marine manning the machine gun was thrown from the turret. Both Marines involved in the accident suffered only minor injuries. The Marines of Combat Service Support Company 119 are responsible for delivering food, water, mail and other supplemental items to the remote areas here.

Photo by Lance Cpl. Travis J. Kaemmerer



◀ **FALLUJAH, Iraq** – An M-1A1 Abrams Main Battle Tank fires its cannon into the city during Operation Al Fajr Nov. 15. The tank and other elements of 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines, began their assault on the northern edge of the city Nov. 8. The Marines and corpsmen of the battalion are among coalition forces called upon by the interim Iraqi government to clear the city of the insurgents and foreign fighters.

Photo by Cpl. Jan Bender



▼ **AL TASH REFUGEE CAMP, Iraq** – Marines from the 1st Marine Division civil affairs team deliver boxes of medical supplies to the Kurdish refugees here May 11. The refugees have little potable water, virtually no sanitation system, no electricity and limited access to medical equipment. Freedom and Peace Trust of Boston, a non-government organization, donated the bandages, gloves and medications to the people. During the trip, Marines, sailors and soldiers delivered the assorted medical supplies and two 30,000-gallon water storage units.

Photo by Cpl. Paula M. Fitzgerald



▲ **FALLUJAH, Iraq** – An amphibious assault vehicle knocks down a wall surrounding a compound here Nov. 20. Two squads with 3rd Platoon, C Company, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marines, took fire from insurgents in the compound the night before. In the ensuing few hours, the two squads searched nine houses, uncovering several AK-47s and ammunition caches.

Photo by Sgt. Clinton Firstbrook



▼ **SOUTHCENTRAL AFGHANISTAN** – A military police vehicle from MEU Service Support Group 22 plows through a river during a combat operation here June 29. MSSG-22 is the combat service support element of the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit. As the heads and tails of convoys, the MPs act as scouts, stopping traffic as necessary and conducting searches of people and vehicles. The MPs search for weapons, materials for improvised explosive devices, and terrorist paraphernalia.

Photo by Gunnery Sgt. Keith A. Milks



◀ **SOUTHCENTRAL AFGHANISTAN** – Marines kick through a blocked door during Operation Cadillac Ranch, a cordon and knock operation here May 22. The Marines are with B Company, Battalion Landing Team 1st Battalion, 6th Marines, the ground combat element of the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit. The unit's mission was to locate caches of arms, ammunition, and explosives hidden by Taliban and anticoalition factions operating in the region, and to deny terrorist factions the sanctuaries from which they had long attacked the Afghan government and coalition forces.

Photo by Cpl. Jemssy Alvarez



Year in Review
ON THIS DATE:

02:26
2004

WASHINGTON – Department of Defense officials announce the final approval of two new medals – the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary and Global War on Terrorism Service medals.